



DIARY OF A TOOTH FAIRY





This Diary
Belongs
To
Pip!

*To my niece, Natalie,
with fairy best wishes - A. D.*

For Millie - V. C.

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DIARY OF A TOOTH FAIRY



The Tooth Fairy
Training School

The Tooth, The Whole Tooth
And Nothing But The Tooth



Heart's Ease
Primrose Lane
Fairyland



Dear Principal,

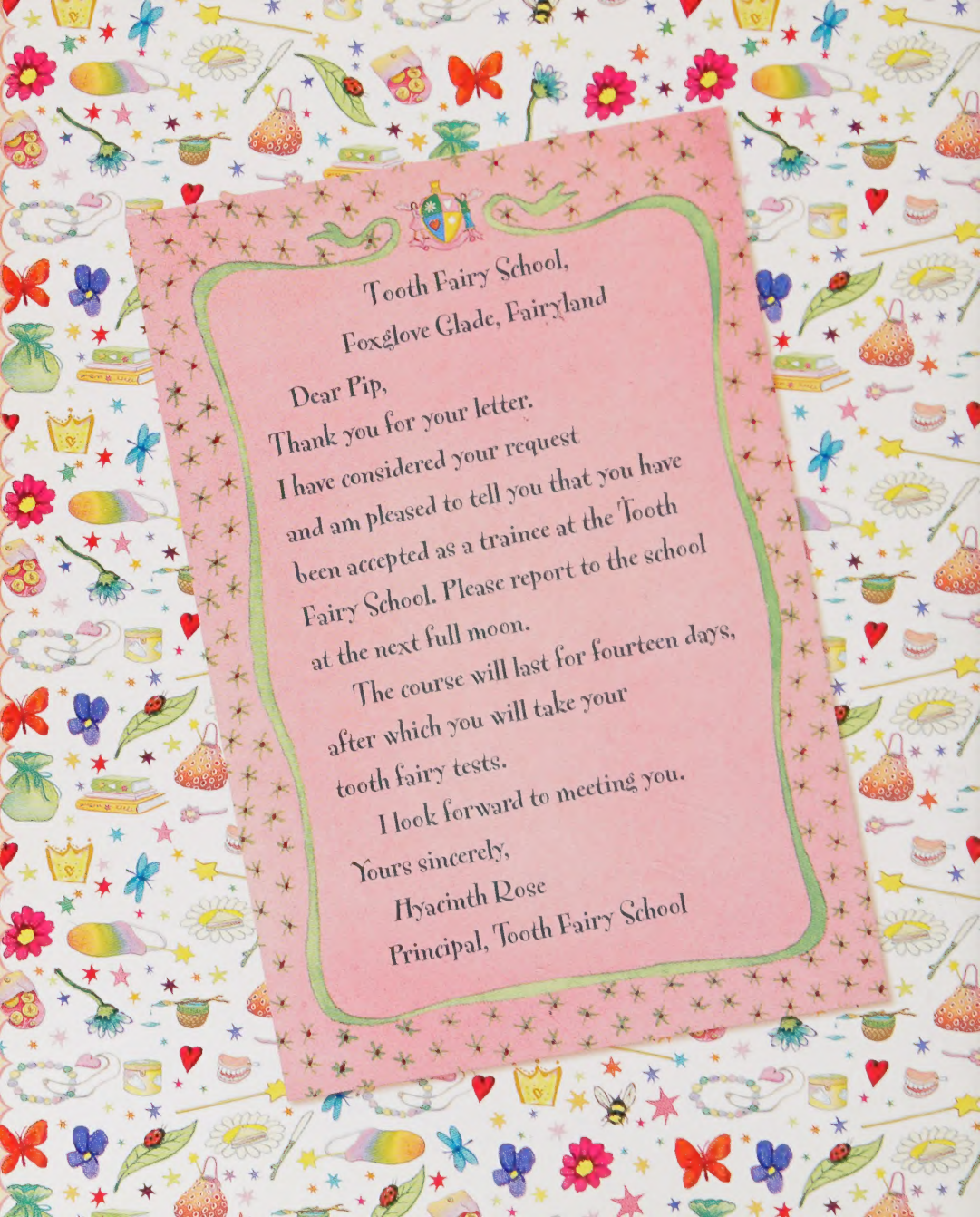
I am writing to ask if you will take me as a pupil at your Tooth Fairy School. My mother is a flower fairy and my father is a construction fairy, but I have always wanted to be a tooth fairy since my mother told me stories about one when I was very little. I think it sounds like a very interesting job because you fly to lots of different places and see what the human world is like. I would also like to make children happy.

I have good flying and magic skills and promise to work hard.

Please, please accept me into your school and make my dreams come true!

With fairy best wishes,

Pip

The background of the entire page is a dense, repeating pattern of various colorful items: stars, flowers, ladybugs, butterflies, rainbows, and small kitchen items like pots and pans. In the center, there is a pink rectangular card with a green border. At the top of the card, there is a small crest featuring a crown and a shield with a heart and a star. The text on the card is as follows:

Tooth Fairy School,
Foxglove Glade, Fairyland

Dear Pip,
Thank you for your letter.
I have considered your request
and am pleased to tell you that you have
been accepted as a trainee at the Tooth
Fairy School. Please report to the school
at the next full moon.
The course will last for fourteen days,
after which you will take your
tooth fairy tests.

I look forward to meeting you.
Yours sincerely,
Hyacinth Rose
Principal, Tooth Fairy School

Here I am

at the school
for trainee tooth fairies.

Me, Pip! I am sooo excited.

No one in my family has ever
trained to be a tooth fairy before.

My mum says she is very proud of me – and I
haven't even started the course yet! For the next
couple of weeks this school will be my home – I
hope I don't get homesick.

Today was settling in and introductions day.
First we gathered in the hall to meet the
principal, Hyacinth Rose. She is a very important





fairy. She has silver wing tips, which are the sign of the highest rank of tooth fairy. She has trained most of the tooth fairies working today and is on first name terms with the Fairy Queen! She is quite old and stern-looking and does not seem to smile very much.

Hyacinth Rose warned us that being a tooth fairy is a very big responsibility, not a game, and that the training would be tough.

"If you don't like hard work then you should leave right away," she said, and she gave us all a long hard stare – but no one left.

"Well, that's a good start," she said.

At the end of the meeting Hyacinth Rose handed us our timetable for the first week of training. Now I see what she means about hard work!

After the meeting she took us to our dorm. It is quite bare, but each of us has our own hammock to sleep in. I tried mine out straight away. It's really comfy and great for bouncing about in. I bounced so hard that I fell out! Luckily I wasn't hurt, but Hyacinth Rose wasn't impressed.



"Pip, isn't it?" she said.

"Yes," I replied very quietly, blushing.

"I know your mother, May," she said. "And I imagine she is very proud that you are at this school."

"Yes," I said.

"Well then, Pip, I suggest that you try a little harder to make yourself worthy of that pride." She gave me that long hard stare that could probably wither a flower if she wanted it to.

"Yes, ma'am," I muttered. "I won't do it again."

"See that you don't," said Hyacinth Rose, then off she went. Not the best start to my career as a tooth fairy!

I was feeling a bit down, but the other trainees were very nice and they made me feel better.



There are three of them.



Their names are Peasbody, Mab and Niamh (that's how you write it, but it sounds like Neeve).



We must be up very early in the morning for our first proper day of training, so I'd better get some sleep. Let's hope I make a better impression tomorrow!





Day Two

Tinkle, tinkle,
CLANG!

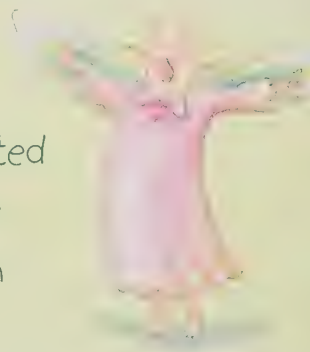
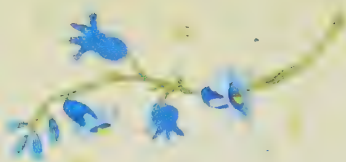
We were woken at dawn
by a bluebell chorus.

It was Hyacinth Rose giving
us our alarm call. The noise
was so loud, I nearly fell

out of my bed again!

"Time to get up," shouted HR
(that's what we trainees have started
to call her now – though not to her
face, of course!). I didn't feel much
like shining, more like drizzling.

"Come along, Pip," HR instructed. "This is no
time to be lying in bed. There's work to be done."



"Yes ma'am," I yawned.

I had a delicious breakfast of hazelnut crunch and honey washed down with fresh dew and then I felt much better.

After breakfast HR introduced us to Madame le Fey, who is Professor of Dentricals at the school. (I have no idea what that means, but it is something to do with teeth and sounds very important!) She took us for our first lesson.

"Now," she said. "Let us begin at ze beginning..." She waved her wand and a picture appeared on the board behind her.

"Voila! Ze tooth."

Peasbody sniggered.
Madame le Fey





was not amused. She said
that teeth were not a laughing matter,
they were the whole purpose of a tooth fairy's
life. She pointed at the tooth with her wand.
I thought she was over doing it a little. It was
quite a nice tooth, but not that special.

The Professor set us a little test. She handed
us all a picture showing different kinds of teeth.
Only one could be collected by a tooth fairy, she
said, and we had to find it. She timed us with
a dandelion clock.

I looked at the different teeth and ticked the one I thought was correct. I hoped I was right... And luckily, I was! Peasbody and Niamh got the right answer too, but poor Mab got it wrong. She'd put a tick next to the set of false teeth.

"Ooh la-la," Madame le Fey tutted. "If you take zese, how will granny chew her food?"

She made us write all the names of the other teeth on the paper so that we would be able to identify them. Then she gave us another diagram showing the different kinds of human teeth.





Later, in the dorm,
Mab was a bit upset about getting
her first test wrong so I tried to
cheer her up by turning my diagram sheet
into a paper dart and throwing it across the
room. It flew beautifully and we all cheered.
Unfortunately, at that moment, HR walked in.
The dart landed right at her feet. She didn't say
a word. She just gave us that withering look.
"To whom does this belong?" she asked.
I said it was mine.

"Ah, Pip. I might have guessed," she sighed.

"Please, ma'am, she was giving us a demonstration on flight," said Niamh. "It was most interesting."

"Mmm, was it indeed?" HR muttered, as if she didn't believe a word. "Well, tomorrow you shall be doing some flying of your own. We shall be visiting the tooth fairy workshop for some practical lessons."

At last we're going to do something! I can't wait!

Roll on tomorrow.





Day Three

What a busy day!

I am quite
exhausted.

"Some people think that all there is to being a tooth fairy is flying around collecting children's teeth and looking gorgeous," said Hyacinth Rose when we arrived at the tooth fairy workshop.

None of us said anything, because that's exactly what we all thought! How wrong we were...

I've never seen a place as busy as the tooth fairy workshop. There are fairies flying in with new teeth all the time. First they take them to the depository where all new teeth are logged





in and sent for inspection. After this, more fairies sort the teeth into piles of good and bad. Bad or broken teeth are passed to another group of fairies whose job is to mend them, then the mended teeth join the good teeth for polishing with beeswax and buffing with dandelion seed puffs.

We had to have a go at all the jobs.



The hardest one was carrying teeth from one place to the next. They weigh more than you think! My wings were quite flapped out by the end of it. My favourite bit was polishing and buffing. It was such fun! I worked really hard.

"Why, Pip, I do believe I can see my face in that tooth," said HR when I'd finished. I was beaming all over, as if I'd been polished and buffed myself!

Peasbody and Niamh did very well too – but poor Mab had another disaster.





She buffed her tooth so
hard that she broke the top
off. She started to cry.

HR told her not to be so silly
- the tooth fairies would fix the tooth
in no time! She also said that humans are always
breaking their teeth and that they take them
to a person called a dentist to be mended.

I wonder what dentists look like.

Like this perhaps?



I can't write any more.

My hand is aching from
all that buffing!

HR let us have
a rest day today
because we worked so
hard yesterday. She said
we'd better make the most
of it because it will be the
last one we get! We played
games and asked each other
riddles and got to know each
other better. We had some
really good wheat
stalk fights,



Day Four



but best of all was a game that Peasbody showed us. It's called Catch Petal. You fill a hazelnut cup with daisy petals, then you throw the petals in the air and see how many you can catch on your wings. Peasbody's ma says it's very good for wing control. We all thought it was lots of fun too.

I think it's time that I described my fellow trainees. First Peasbody. She has dark skin with long dark brown curly hair. She loves

to laugh and play tricks. This morning she stood outside the dorm door and pretended to be HR.

"The last one up gets no breakfast," she barked and she sounded just like HR, she really did.

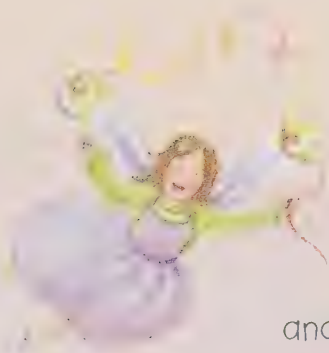


Well, the rest of us tumbled out of our beds so fast we ended up in a big messy heap on the floor. Then in came Peasbody giggling like a pixie.

"Fooled you," she laughed. And she had!

Mab is much quieter than Peasbody. She's quite shy in fact and her cheeks often blush pink when she does anything wrong. I think she is a bit homesick, so I try to talk to her as much as I can to make her feel more at home. She has found the course quite hard so far.





I like Peasbody and Mab,
but I like Niamh best of all.

She is very kind and friendly
and since she stood up for me the
other night we have been firm friends. She
comes from the Emerald Isle and tells the most
brilliant stories. She says that when she was a
baby her father took her to Kiss the Blarney
Stone (that's some famous stone where she
lives) and it gave her the gift of storytelling.
Today Niamh told us a tale about leprechauns.

"Is it true that there's a crock of gold at the
end of the rainbow?" I asked her.

"To be sure it is," she replied.

"Then why hasn't anyone ever found the gold
and taken it?" Mab enquired.

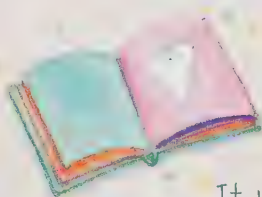
"Ah, because the gold is not real gold,
it's the colour of your deepest wish
and desire," said Niamh, "and nobody's
is exactly the same."

Well, I know what my deepest wish and desire
is: to be a tooth fairy!





Day Five



Another day with
Madame le Fey and her
Dentricals. She started with a
question that really made us think:
why do tooth fairies collect teeth?

It was such an obvious question but we'd
never thought about it before. We'd seen teeth
being brought to the workshop and mended and
buffed up, but what happened to them then? For
a few moments we all sat in silence feeling like
fools – and then it came to me.

"Please, ma'am," I said at last, "are they used for building things?"

Madame le Fey clapped her hands together and beamed. "Well done, Pip!" she cried.

"But what sort of things?"





Peasbody flapped her wings excitedly.

"Walls," she said.

"Palaces," said Niamh.



"Chairs," said Mab.

"Fountains," I said.

Suddenly we were full
of answers.

"Baths."

"Boats."

"Beds."

"Lights."

"Tables."

"Cupboards."

"Statues."

Then Mab said, "Toilets",
and the rest of us burst out laughing.





Poor Mab went very pink. Madame le Fey frowned and sighed, but then she said, "Ah, well, ma fille, at least you are using your brain." Then she gave us a sheet with pictures of tooth constructions and we had to draw one of our own. I drew a fairy cottage for my family to live in. My mum would love it, I know!

Madame le Fey said that many magnificent fairy buildings have been made from human teeth. Tomorrow we are going to fly out to see some.

Later, when we got back to our dorm, we found a basket full of delicious fairy cakes that the school's cook, Basil, had baked for us. The basket was made out of a tooth of course, but luckily the cakes weren't! They were made of saffron and lovely honey – fresh from the bee.





Day Six

Poor Peasbody
wasn't feeling well
today. Her face was
green as a leprechaun's.
I think she might have
eaten too many cakes
last night!



So while Peasbody stayed in bed, the rest of us
flew off around Fairyland for the day.

Basil made us a delicious packed lunch
of mallow fruits, fairy bread
and nettle juice – and
left over cakes,
of course!



Hyacinth Rose gave us each a different map with five sites – or “wonders” as she called them – marked on it. We each had to fly off and find them, then describe them to the others when we got back. I decided to draw pictures of mine so I’d remember what they looked like.

“Map reading is very important for tooth fairies,” said HR. “You cannot always rely on your fairy magic to find places. Let’s see how you get on.”


She asked us if we had any questions, and Mab asked which way up the map went. HR gave her one of those



My five wonders
of the
fairy world

withering looks and said she should be able
to work that out for herself. Poor Mab went
as red as a rosehip.

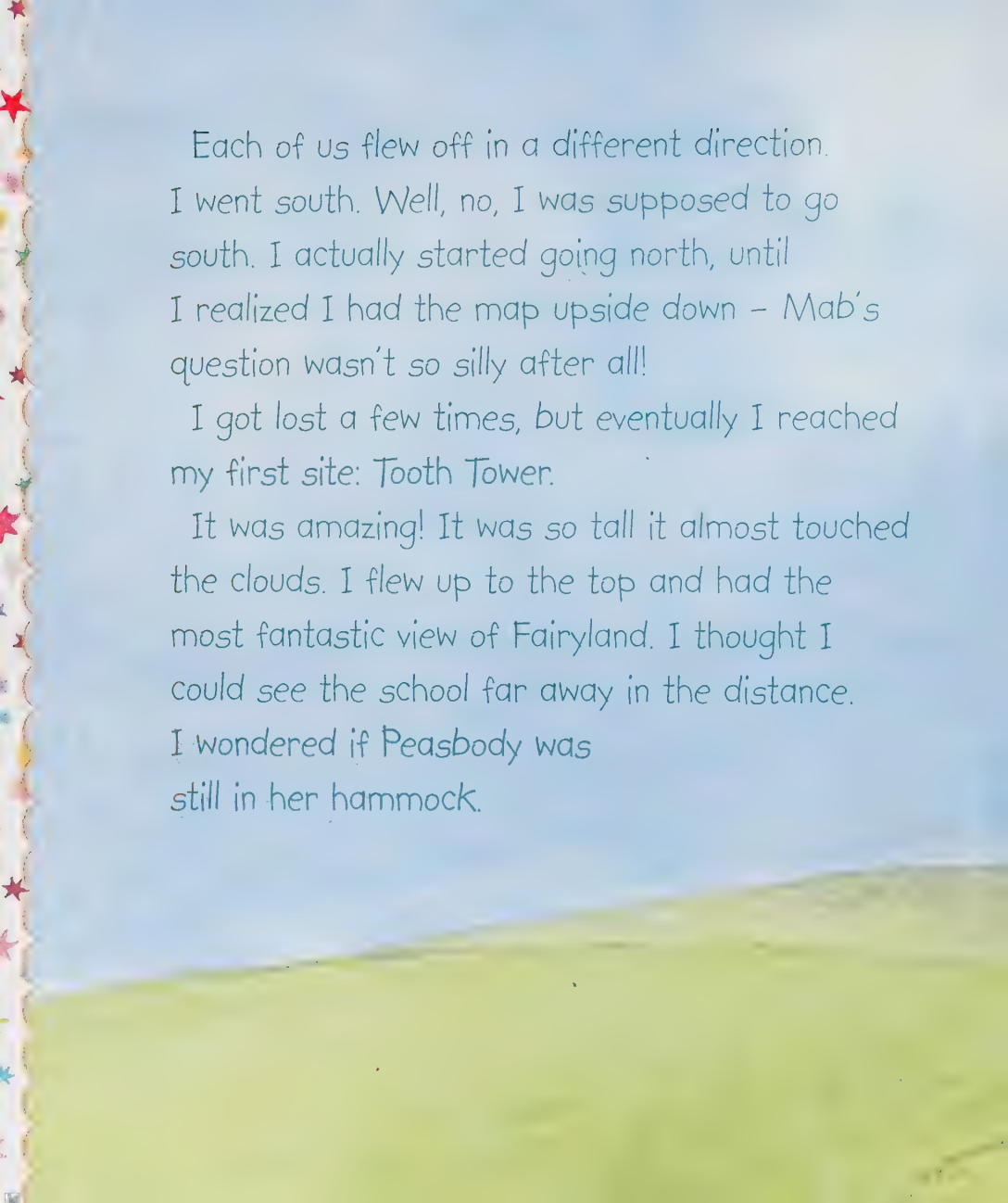




Each of us flew off in a different direction. I went south. Well, no, I was supposed to go south. I actually started going north, until I realized I had the map upside down – Mab's question wasn't so silly after all!

I got lost a few times, but eventually I reached my first site: Tooth Tower.

It was amazing! It was so tall it almost touched the clouds. I flew up to the top and had the most fantastic view of Fairyland. I thought I could see the school far away in the distance. I wondered if Peasbody was still in her hammock.





The second site was magnificent! It was a stunning statue of the fairy god, Pan. I could hardly believe that anyone could make such a beautiful thing out of teeth!

It was so inspiring. It made me want to start collecting teeth right away.

But I have to get through this course and pass my tooth fairy tests first...

I had lunch at the statue, then flew on to find the other three sites:



the Enchanted Bridge,
Enamel Arch and

Snowdrop Palace,

which sparkled as if it were
bathed in dew. I could
see why HR called
them wonders. I'd
never seen anything as

wonderful in my life.

I was the first one to arrive
back at school, followed
by Niamh and then,
quite a lot later,
by Mab. She'd
dropped her map





and couldn't find
her way home!

Peasbody was feeling
much better and she joined
us. I showed everyone my

pictures. Peasbody whistled and said that she
never knew Fairyland was so full of wonders.

We all laughed.

"And do you know the biggest wonder of all?"
said HR.

"No," we said.

"The biggest wonder will be if you
four make it through this course and
become tooth fairies!" HR said, glaring at us.

If I ever see HR smile,
that really will be a wonder!



We spent today
at the school's
simulation
centre
learning the
different ways
of getting into
human houses.



Day Seven

The centre is run by Skilly Widdens. He's quite old, like Hyacinth Rose, but he's much more smiley. He has twinkly blue eyes that always look as if they are laughing.

"Now, my little cherubs," he said,
"I hope you're all enjoying your time
at Tooth Fairy School and that
they're treating you well."



"Yes, thank you," we all nodded.

He smiled. "That Hyacinth Rose can be a little thorny, but she's a dear petal at heart."

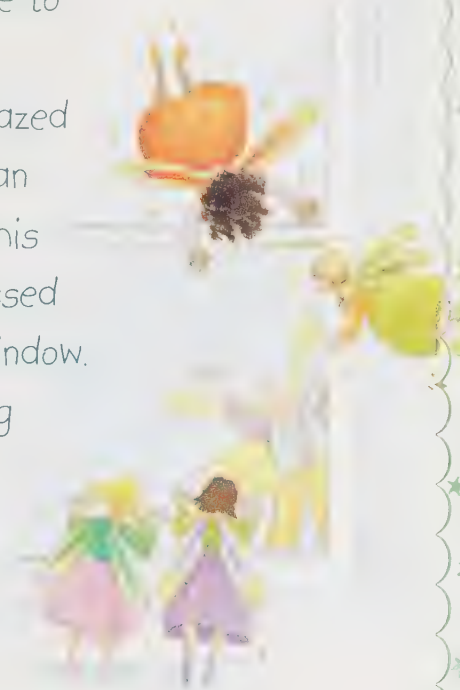
Peasbody grinned at me and I grinned back. HR is just about the last person we'd ever describe as a dear petal!

Skilly Widdens showed us round the simulation centre, which was set up like a human house. He gave us a plan of the house and asked us to mark all the means of entry. I found seven: windows, door, chimney, keyhole, letterbox, air vent and cat flap. Niamh and Peasbody found the same, but Mab did best of all – she found eight. Skilly Widdens congratulated her for finding the fairy's last resort: "When all else fails, use the mousehole!" he said.

Skilly Widdens told us that the best way for a

tooth fairy to enter a human house is through a window – and best of all the window into the bedroom of the child whose tooth you have come to collect. He pulled down the window on the simulated house until it was only open by a few millimetres. He asked for a volunteer to try to get through the tiny gap. We looked at Skilly Widdens and at the window. None of us fancied trying. You'd have to be a mouse to do that, I thought.

Well, what happened next amazed me. In less than a twinkling of an eye, the little old fairy flapped his wings, rose into the air and passed through the gap beneath the window. An instant later he was beaming at us from the other side!





We could not believe our eyes!

"We fairies can get
through the
narrowest of gaps,"
said Skilly Widdens
when he reappeared
on our side of the glass.

"It's just a question
of confidence."

After that, we all had a go. Skilly
Widdens was right, but it took us a few
attempts. On my first try I got my wings
trapped and was stuck half in and half out of
the room! Skilly Widdens had to release me.

Niamh banged her nose
on the sill and Peasbody's
wild hair got tangled in
the window latch.

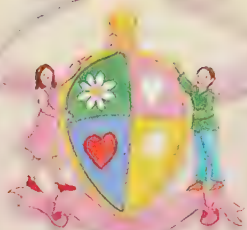
Mab was the only one who
managed to pass through first time
without a hitch. It seems like she's

getting the hang of the course at
last. She looked happy for the
first time since she got here.

Good old Mab!

Only one more week
to go before we take
our test! Gulp!





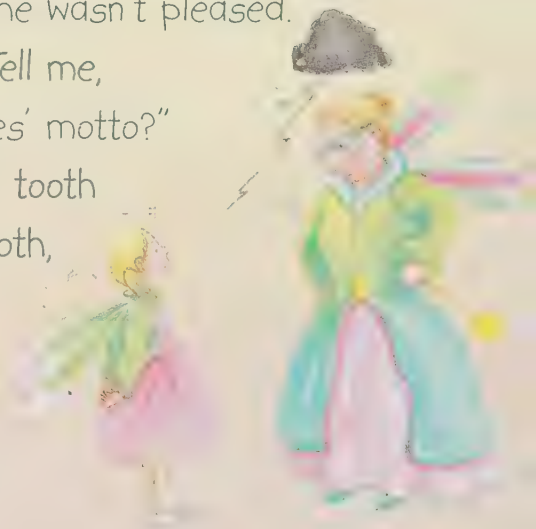
Day Eight

Today was our second day at the simulation centre. I much prefer these practical lessons with Skilly Widdens to those boring lectures by Madame le Fey. I wish it was all like this. HR overhead

me saying this to Niamh this morning at breakfast and she wasn't pleased.

"Pip," she barked. "Tell me, what is the tooth fairies' motto?"

"The tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth, ma'am," I said.



"Precisely," huffed HR. "Not a little bit of the tooth, not the parts of the tooth that you fancy learning about. No, the whole tooth. Kindly remember that and I think you will come to thank Madame le Fey should you ever become a tooth fairy." She said it as if she thought this a very unlikely thing to happen.

I felt about half
a centimetre tall,
but I soon felt better once
we got to the simulation
centre. Skilly Widdens
makes us work hard, but it's such fun.
We did some more flying and
passing-through-narrow-gaps practice today.
We started with windows again.





Then we moved on to
the gaps under doors,
keyholes and letterboxes,
and air vents.

We learnt how to pass
through cat flaps
without making
any noise and to swoop
down chimneys.



This was my favourite part
- I love the rush of air
as you whoosh down!
Peasbody didn't like it at
all though. She said
chimneys made her feel
"claustrophobic".

Skilly Widdens explained
that claustrophobia
is having a fear of
small closed places.
He said that he used
to worry that he'd get
trapped in the chimney
and never get out.

Niamh asked him how
he had cured his fear and



Skilly Widdens said that he went to see
somebody who knew more than anyone else
about going down chimneys.

"Who?" we asked.

"Why, Father Christmas, of course!" said Skilly
Widdens, with a big smile.

He told us that Father Christmas had said
to him, "Look at me.

See how big and round
my tummy is?

Well, there's never been
a chimney yet that I couldn't
get down – and if I can do it,
why, a skinny fairy
like you has nothing
to worry about!"



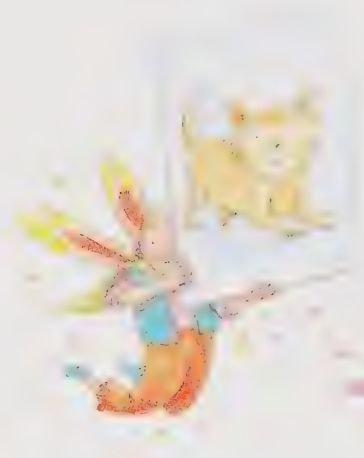
Then Skilly Widdens looked at Peasbody and said, "I should say the same was true for you, wouldn't you?" His eyes were as blue and sparkly as dewy forget-me-nots and Peasbody looked happier at once.

When we'd finished our flying exercises, Skilly Widdens sat us down and told us to listen very carefully. His face was much more serious than usual.

"Now, my cherubs," he said. "It's not only clever wings that make a good tooth fairy. Getting into a human house can be a dangerous business. You need to keep your eyes open and your wits sharp.

Supposing, for instance, you are nudging your way silently through a cat flap at the very moment a great big tom cat is coming the other


way. The outcome could be catastrophic!"



Then Skilly Widdens asked us what we should always look out for before we went down a chimney.

"Father Christmas?" asked Niamh and we all laughed.

But Skilly Widens looked serious. He said we had to beware of smoke, because we wouldn't



want to go tumbling down
into a lighted fire and burn
our bottoms, would we?

We all shook our
heads at that.

At the end of the lesson,

Hyacinth Rose came in to see how
we were getting on.

"Why, isn't this a pleasure," said Skilly Widdens,
and his face lit up as if the sun had just come
out. "How are you today, my dear petal?"
Yes, he really said it – to her face!

"Oh, er, fine, thank you, Mr Widdens,"
HR stammered and – guess what?
– she blushed. She really
did! Perhaps she does
have feelings after all!





We trainees were all
a bit sleepy when we
woke up today because
last night we stayed
awake till late asking
each other riddles
and telling stories.



Niamh told us about a cheeky boggart who was always playing tricks on people. Then Peasbody made up a funny riddle that made us all laugh:

"What's green and naughty and goes around kissing people?"

Answer: A snoggart!



This morning Madame le Fey gave us a lecture about how to recognize a good tooth and what coin we should leave in exchange. She showed us a chart and gave us a copy. More things to learn for our test next week! There is so much to remember. I was so tired that I couldn't keep my eyes open and I fell asleep in the middle of the lesson. Worse still, I started snoring! Niamh nudged me and I woke up with a yawn. For a moment, I didn't know where I was. Madame le

Fey didn't look at all pleased. She said a tooth fairy must be awake and alert, not sleeping on the job.

"Sleeping is for children," she said.



I was worried that Madame le Fey might report me to Hyacinth Rose, but I don't think she did, because HR didn't say anything about it when she saw me later. In fact she seemed to be in quite a good mood.

"Fallen out of any beds lately, Pip?" she remarked, and I think she almost smiled!

We were back
with Skilly Widdens
today. He told us we had
to pay careful attention,
because today's lesson
was the most
important of all.
We had practised
flying, we had
learnt how to
enter houses
and discovered
some of the hazards
to look out for. But now
it was time to meet the child.

We all let out a gasp at that, because
none of us had met a real human child before.



But there wasn't a real child, it was just pretend. Skilly Widdens had made a child's bedroom in the centre. He said that when you enter the room, you first take a moment to be certain that the child is asleep. Next you swiftly and silently fly to the bed, positioning yourself by the pillow under which the tooth is waiting.

He paused there, standing by the bed and raising one finger.

"Now for the tricky part," he said.

He showed us how to slide our hands very gently under the pillow and remove the tooth. You have to check



whether there is a note under the pillow. If there is, then you take it out – very carefully – read it and write a reply with the fairy pen and paper which every tooth fairy carries.

When you have finished,
you leave the letter
and the
appropriate
coin under
the pillow.





Then you fly away quickly
using the nearest
available exit.

Skilly Widdens said that at
ordinary schools they teach
the importance of the three Rs,
but at tooth fairy school they
teach the three Ss: speed, silence and stealth.
I asked him what stealth was and he said it was
being very quiet and secret.

Then Mab put up her hand and asked what
would happen if you were in the room and the
child woke up.

Skilly Widdens smiled and said that was a very
good question, but he wasn't going to answer it.
He was going to pass it over to Hyacinth Rose.

We all looked round in surprise because we

didn't know HR was there. She must have come into the room very quietly when Skilly Widdens was talking.

"I think you have a story to tell, don't you?" said Skilly Widdens.

"I do," said HR. "Indeed I do."

Hyacinth Rose told us a story about when she was a young tooth fairy. She'd just passed her test and was on her very first solo mission. She found the right house and had no trouble getting in as the bedroom window was open. Everything was going fine when, suddenly, she realized the child was awake! It was a little girl and she was looking right at Hyacinth Rose. We looked at HR too, holding our breath, wondering what had happened next. Peasbody couldn't contain herself.

"What did you do?" she squealed.

"I panicked,"
HR confessed.

"I did what you should
never do – I returned the child's
stare." She paused and shook her head
as if telling herself off. Then she went on
to tell us that there are three strict rules
to follow when dealing with a wakeful child:

Rule 1: Do not look the child in the eye.

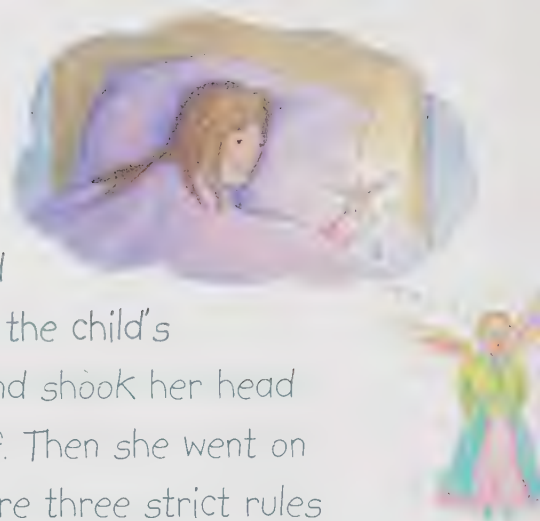
Rule 2: Do not talk to the child.

Rule 3: Do not make physical contact.

"Breaking these rules can be very dangerous,"
she said. "Humans and fairies simply do not mix.
They have their world, we have ours."

"But what happened to you?" I asked.

HR gave me a stern gaze. She said that once
the panic had passed, she started to think



clearly again and remembered: if all else fails, use your fairy magic. So she uttered a spell of sleep and forgetfulness, which meant that when the child woke up the next day she wouldn't remember seeing HR.

For the rest of the lesson we practised removing the tooth from under the pillow, taking it in turns to be the child and the tooth fairy. It was much harder than it looked when Skilly Widdens showed us. One time when I was being the tooth fairy, the tooth got stuck and I pulled so hard I flipped Peasbody right off the bed!

"Softly, Pip, softly," cooed Skilly Widdens.

By the end of the lesson, though, we were all pretty good at gentle tooth removal.

Tomorrow's lesson is spells.

I can't wait!





Day Eleven

I had a letter
from home
this morning.
The post fairies
delivered it while
I was asleep and
when I woke up
it was on the
toadstool next to
my hammock.

Heart's Ease
Primrose Lane:
Fairyland

Dear Pip

How are you, my blossom?

We miss you so much. Home isn't the same
without you - it's so quiet!

Your pa has been very busy designing
a new palace for the Fairy Queen.

It's going to be quite magnificent!

He's going to need lots of very good test
to make it, so you'd better pass your test
and get collecting! He's asked me to



choose the colours from the flowers
in the palace gardens so I shall be very
busy too. A flower fairy's work is never
done, as they say!

I hope you are getting along
all right at school. I know 4 Hyacinth Rose
can appear rather stern at times, but
underneath she has the kindest of hearts.
Please send her my regards.

Big hugs.
Your loving Ma x



I was very excited, but when I'd read the letter, I started to cry. It made me realize how much I miss my family, even though I'm very happy here most of the time.

The others were very kind. Niamh told me about her home in the Emerald Isle, while Peasbody brought me breakfast in bed and Mab made me a beautiful daisy chain. After that, I felt much better. We've become such good friends. I hope we all pass and become tooth fairies together.

HR taught us spells today. She's an expert. Her spell books are in all the libraries. Even the Fairy Queen reads them!

The first thing HR taught us was the spell of sleep and forgetfulness. She said it was the most important spell and she made us all copy it out.



It goes like this:


Close your eyes,
my child, my sweet.

Let sleep come swift
on fairy feet

And when you rise
not eye nor ear

Recall our brief encounter here.

It sounds simple enough, but a spell is more than
just the words that you speak – it's how you say
them. The tone of your voice must be just right.




"You must sound like you are sleep itself," HR told us, and I must admit that

when she spoke the spell, she really did.

My eyelids were drooping and Peasbody actually fell asleep.

We had to get into pairs and practise the spell on each other. I paired up with Niamh. She was brilliant. She has such a beautiful lilting voice. I'd have been in my bed and dozing in no time if we'd been back in the dorm!

I found it much more difficult when it was my turn. For a start I kept getting the words wrong (and you have to get every word exactly right). I couldn't get the tone right either. I sounded more like a howling wind than sleep.




My wand control
was terrible too.

As you say the
spell, you have to
wave your wand in gentle circles,
pointing it at your subject on
the very last word.



It's much harder than it sounds.

Putting all those things together is a bit like
trying to pat your head while rubbing your chest.



(I can't do that either!) I'm going to have to do
lots of spell practice before the tests,

I can see! I made up my own spell this evening:

Fairy spirits flying high,

Through the starry summer sky,

North and south, east and west,

Bring me luck to pass my test!

I hope it
works!





Day Twelve

Our lesson today
was letter
writing and
my hand is
aching so much

I can hardly
write this.

HR took us to the
archive room where all the
letters ever written by children to
tooth fairies are stored. There are
boxes and boxes of them – millions
and trillions of letters from children
all over the world. And, of course,
every letter has to be answered
by the tooth fairies!



"Children ask all kinds of questions," said HR.
"You have to be prepared for anything – and
have an answer ready." She picked out a few
letters and read them to us. They were
full of questions.



My head was spinning listening to them all! It must be very tiring being a human parent if children ask so many questions!

HR told us that there are three golden rules you must always remember when writing to a child (she likes her rules does HR!).

Rule 1: Be polite and friendly, but firm.

Rule 2: Always tell the truth.

Rule 3: Sign your letters from The Tooth

Fairy – never reveal your real name.

This is most important. If you tell a mortal your real name, you will lose your fairy powers.

HR sat us down at desks in the archive room and gave us each a handful of old letters so we could practise writing answers. We each had an acorn cup of green ink and a fern frond to write with. My first letter was from Billy. He wanted

£100 for his tooth! I was tempted to write:
"Dear Billy, don't be so greedy." but I
remembered the first golden rule, so instead
I wrote this:



Dear Billy,

Thank you for your letter. I am afraid
I cannot leave you £100. We tooth fairies have
fixed rates for teeth, depending on their condition.

Please find the appropriate sum for your tooth
under your pillow.

I look forward to doing business with you
again in the future.

Yours sincerely,
The Tooth Fairy

HR came by as I was finishing and peered over my shoulder.

"Hmm, not bad, Pip," she said.

"You might just make a tooth fairy yet."

"Thank you," I said smiling. Actually, I was grinning from ear to ear.

"Don't get carried away now," HR added. "It wasn't that good." But she couldn't stop me smiling.

There was an interesting letter from a girl called Tanzy, who wanted to know what colour my wings were and how fast I could fly. I thought about making up a speed, but that would have broken the second golden rule, so I told the truth and said that I didn't actually know, but I'd always found I could fly fast enough. I hoped that was a good enough answer.



Of all the tasks we've been given so far, I think this was the hardest. You really had to use your brain – and it was very tiring doing all that writing. Peasbody says she's going to have to wear her arm in a sling tomorrow and I know what she means.

Only two more days to go before the test. It gives me butterflies just thinking about it!





Day Thirteen

Today was our last day
in the classroom
(tomorrow we have a study
day to read through our
notes and practise our skills
on our own).

We had a session with Madame
le Fey in the morning. Then after
lunch we went to the simulation
centre. We took it in turns
to do practice missions. Skilly
Widdens set little traps to
test us. One time I flew down
the chimney (checking first that
there was no smoke)
and found it was blocked.




By the time I'd turned round and flown back out again, I was all covered in soot!

"Sorry, Pip," Skilly Widdens said. "People don't use their chimneys as much these days. Father Christmas finds it most inconvenient." I decided I would use the window in future!

Our last lesson was with Hyacinth Rose. She talked to us about what it meant to be a tooth fairy and what a responsible job it was. She also told us that when she was a trainee tooth fairy like us she'd had the best teacher – it was Skilly Widdens! So that's why he dared call her "dear petal", even though she is now a super expert teacher like him.

At the end of her lesson, she had a surprise for us. She said that because we had all worked



so hard, she was going to give us
a party that evening. Basil had
prepared some delicious refreshments and the
pixies had kindly offered to come and play their
music for us. Her usually stern face smiled. We
were all so amazed we couldn't speak.

And what a brilliant party it was! Basil served
up a feast. There were honey and walnut cakes
and saffron cookies. There were trays of
scrumptious dogwood fruits
that Basil calls pixie
pears. We drank
burdock nectar and
the teachers drank
nettle wine. Some
will o' the wisps
stopped by and lit



up the party with their twinkling.

The pixies were great. When you hear the music of their pipes and whistles, you just want to dance – and dance we did in the moonlight. HR danced with Skilly Widdens and Madame le Fey danced with Basil, and we danced with all the pixies (even Mab – she wasn't shy at all). It was such fun! Niamh was incredible! She has such quick feet. And she has a beautiful singing voice too. She sang a couple of songs with the pixies that were so sweet I swear there were tears in Skilly Widdens's eyes. It was truly magical. We all agreed that it was the best night of our lives.





Day Fourteen



The last day of our course!

I woke up quite late after last night's party
and stayed in bed all morning reading through
all those sheets that Madame le Fey gave us.
There is so much to remember.

It was a quietish day, but there was excitement

to come. Just before dinner, HR summoned the trainees to the lecture room. When we arrived Skilly Widdens and Madame le Fey were there too. They each said a few words to wish us luck in tomorrow's test and told us to stay calm.

We thought that was it but then HR lifted four beautiful bags from under her desk and put them on the table. Each kit bag contained all the things we might need when we go out on our first missions tomorrow night. HR said that no tooth fairy could go about her business without the right equipment – and neither should we.

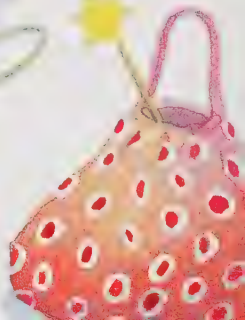
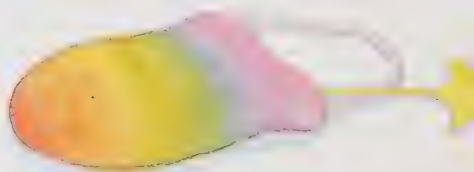
She fixed us with one of her steely stares. "If you succeed, these will be yours to keep for ever," she said.



She called us up one by one to receive them. It was such a thrilling moment. The tips of my wings tingled when I stepped forward to collect my bag – and what a gorgeous bag it is! It's got different coloured stripes, like a rainbow, and a pink handle.

I couldn't wait to get back to the dorm to look at it more closely.

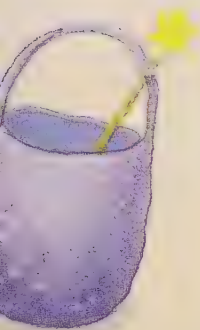
Inside each bag is a wand, tooth fairy ID, writing paper, envelopes, a pen (glittery, of course!), a map, fairy dust, a tooth collection box, a wallet of different coins and a tiny spell book for emergencies.



We danced around the dorm with our bags laughing and shouting and feeling like proper tooth fairies – until HR popped her head round the door and told us it was time for bed.

"We don't want any sleepyheads tomorrow," she said – and I think she was looking at ME!

When HR left it all went very quiet. I suppose we were getting nervous about tomorrow – I know I was. Mab looked through her spell book and said she wished there was a spell to stop nerves. Peasbody said that she wished there was a spell that would make us all pass the test tomorrow. I remembered the spell I'd made up the other night and told it to the others.



"Why don't we try it now?" asked Niamh.

"It's not really magic," I said. "It's just a spell I made up."

"Isn't all magic made up by someone?"
said Niamh.

So we held hands and formed a fairy ring, then closed our eyes and recited my good luck spell.

"Fairy spirits flying high,
Through the starry summer sky,
North and south, east and west,
Bring us luck to pass our test!"



The exams begin!

I got woken up
by the bluebell alarm
to find the post fairies
had delivered another letter
from home. It was a good
luck card from Ma and Pa.
At breakfast there was my
favourite hazelnut crunch but I was
much too nervous to eat.

After breakfast HR took us to the school
examination room where Madame le Fey was
waiting to hand out our test papers.

"Bonne chance, mes filles," she said, and
she looked at the clock. "Alons-y! Begin!"



When I first looked at the paper, I panicked. The questions seemed to float around on the page and I couldn't get my mind to focus. Then I remembered about staying calm. I closed my eyes and took some deep breaths. The paper wasn't really that difficult. I could answer most of the questions OK.

After the exam, we had the rest of the day off to relax until the evening. And if we'd been nervous about the written exam, that was nothing compared with the mission we'd be flying tonight. You couldn't predict what would happen.

We tried to distract ourselves by playing a game of hide and seek.

The others found
me easily, but when
it was my turn
to seek I couldn't find
them at all. I hoped that
wasn't a bad omen
for my mission.



Each of us was to be accompanied on our mission by a qualified tooth fairy, who would act as our examiner and our minder in case anything went wrong. When the time came for us to begin, Skilly Widdens came to fetch us.

"Well, my cherubs, here's the moment you've been waiting for," he said with his twinkly smile. He handed each of us an envelope.



With trembling fingers I ripped mine open ... and gasped. I was to collect the tooth of a boy named Nathaniel. But it was the other name that made me gasp. My minder was Hyacinth Rose!

"I am merely an observer, Pip," HR said to me as I waited to set off on my mission. "Just try to forget that I am here."

How was I supposed to forget that my tutor would be watching every move I made – and probably tutting and giving me her withering look too! I felt like giving up there and then – but I didn't. I wanted to be a tooth fairy more than anything and I was determined to do my best.

I'll just have to prove to HR that I've got what it takes, I said to myself.

Then Skilly Widdens chimed the bluebell gong and it was time to fly. As I rose into the air, I heard a soft voice calling, "Good luck, Pip. Make your mother proud." Was it HR – or did I imagine it? I'm still not sure, but it gave me a real lift.



It was a lovely night for flying. I checked my map a couple of times, but I had no trouble finding my way. As I got closer to Nathaniel's house, I felt the tips of my wings tingle. That meant the tooth was there waiting for me. So far, so good!

I reached the house and quickly managed to find Nathaniel's room. I peeped in at the window to make sure the boy was asleep, which he was. But now I faced my first test: how was I to get in? The window was shut fast – there wasn't even a gap that a fairy could squeeze through. The chimney was blocked up, so I was just thinking about gathering my courage to try an air vent in the wall (I don't like air vents – they smell funny and you don't know what's going to be on the other side) when there was a clatter below me.



A big ginger cat appeared
and swaggered out into
the garden. That made
my mind up: I'd enter
through the cat flap!

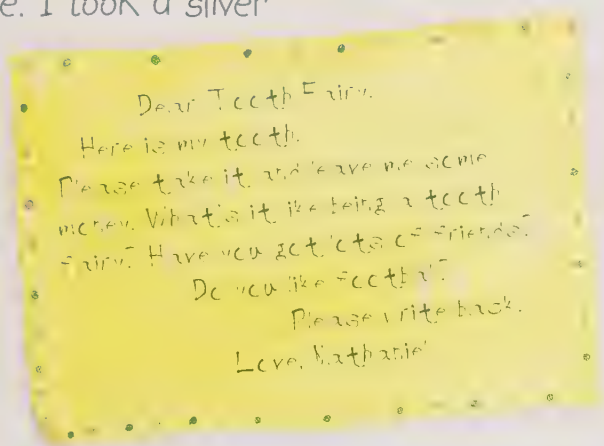
In moments I was down at the back door and
through the cat flap without a sound – Skilly
Widdens would have been proud of me.

It was the first time I'd ever been in a human
house and the first thing that struck me was
the smell – or smells. There were lots of them
and they were a bit strong for my fairy nose.
It reminded me of a boggart I met once.
He was smelly too!

Inside the house it was very dark and very
quiet, but I found Nathaniel's bedroom without
any problem. The door was open and I flew in.

Nathaniel was fast asleep and snoring. I flew over to his bed and put my hand under the pillow. The tooth was there all right - and there was a note too. I pushed the pillow up a bit and wiggled the tooth this way and that till it came out. I examined it first to make sure it wasn't a forgery, then I checked to see what condition it was in. The colour was fine, but it had some marks on it and the top was chipped. It wasn't good enough for a gold coin, nor bad enough for a bronze one. I took a silver coin out of my wallet and left it under the pillow.

Now I read the note:



Dear Tooth Fairy,
Here is my tooth.
Please take it, and leave me some
money. What's it like being a tooth
fairy? Have you got lots of friends?
Do you like teeth?
Please write back.
Love, Nathaniel

I sat down at the end of the bed, took out my pen and started to write a reply. I thanked Nathaniel for his letter and told him that I couldn't really answer his question about what it was like to be a tooth fairy because I was only a trainee and this was my very first mission. I said I was enjoying myself very much so far, though, and I thought that being a tooth fairy was probably the best job in the world. I told him that I had some very good friends who were also trainee tooth fairies like me (but I remembered not to say their names!).

I was just considering how to answer his question about football when I glanced up and got an enormous shock – Nathaniel's eyes were open and he was staring right at me!

For an instant I froze. My mind went blank.





I couldn't do anything.

"Who a-a-are you?"

Nathaniel stammered.

"I'm ... the Tooth Fairy," I muttered, just stopping myself in time from revealing my name. I gazed around the room in a blind panic, trying to get my mind to think, when suddenly my eyes caught sight of HR hovering just outside the window. Seeing her made my brain start to work. This was exactly what had happened to her on her first mission, wasn't it? I would just have to do what she had done.

Quickly I took my wand from my bag and waved it in circles as I uttered the spell of sleep and forgetfulness. I said it perfectly, even pointing my wand on the last word. Nathaniel's eyes drooped and his head fell back on the pillow. A moment later he was snoring. I sighed with relief. Then I finished my letter and tucked it under the pillow. The window was shut but not locked and I managed to lift it just enough to squash myself through.

Once outside, I flew like the wind for home. I was so tired after the excitement of the mission that I fell asleep as soon as I got into my hammock. I dreamt about teeth – talking teeth! But they kept telling me that I would never be a tooth fairy...





Day Sixteen

Our last day!

When I finally woke up,
I heard the others
whispering. They were
discussing their missions,
so I got up and joined them.

They all wanted to know about
my mission and how it had been having
HR as my minder. So I told them everything that
had happened. They gasped when I told them
about the boy waking up. They'd had much more
straightforward missions than mine. The biggest
drama was when Peasbody left her bag behind in
the room and had to go back for it.

We'd done the tests, now we had to wait for the
results. It took all morning for our teachers to

decide if we were good enough to become tooth fairies. It was the longest morning of our lives!



After lunch they were finally ready. We were summoned to HR's office one by one. First to go was Mab.

She was so nervous her wings were quivering! A little while later she came back ... smiling.

"I passed," she said shyly and her face went bright pink.

"Well done, Mab!" we shouted and we all gave her a hug.

Next it was Niamh's turn.

She came back with a smile too. Then Peasbody was called. She was gone longer than the other





two and she came out of HR's office looking gloomy as a gnome. We were just getting ready to comfort her, when her face broke into a gigantic grin. "Fooled you," she cried. "I passed!" It was just another one of her tricks.

Now it was my turn. Niamh said they were saving the best for last, but I'd been playing over the events of yesterday in my head and I was sure I was going to fail. Not only had HR seen me making eye contact with a child, but she'd seen me talking to him too. Then there was the written test – what if I'd got the spells all wrong?

As I opened the door to HR's office, I knew my dream was over. I wasn't going to be a tooth fairy after all. A tear trickled down my cheek.

"Why Pip, whatever's the matter?" said HR

brusquely. "We haven't said anything yet."

"Cheer up, my cherub," said Skilly Widdens, and looking into his kind eyes made me feel better.

Madame le Fey handed me my written test results – and they were excellent!

"Well, it seems you didn't sleep through all my lessons, Pip," she said.

Now it was time for the results of my mission – but I still didn't think I'd pass.

Skilly Widdens smiled. He began by saying that I was very lucky to have had Hyacinth Rose as my observer. (Lucky, I thought. You must be joking!)

He said that HR had told him about my difficulties (here we go, I thought) and how



excellently I had dealt with them. I couldn't believe it. Had I heard right? Then Skilly Widdens said that I had proved myself a most resourceful and intelligent fairy and that my mission had been an outstanding success.

"Well done, my cherub," said Skilly Widdens.

I was so amazed, I didn't know what to say.

"So, Pip, you have passed both your written and practical tests with flying colours," HR declared – and now even she was smiling! "I am delighted to tell you that you are now officially a Tooth Fairy, First Class. Congratulations!" And she handed me my pass note.

It's really true! I passed! I'm a Tooth Fairy! This is the best, most wonderful day of my life. I think I must be the happiest fairy alive!

There was just time to tell the others before we

rushed off to the presentation ceremony.

We were given our pass certificates and coloured wing tips by the Fairy Queen herself! My wing tips are pink and so are Niamh's. Ma and Pa were there and they looked so proud. Ma cried and I think there was a tear in Pa's eye too! I introduced them to my teachers.



"Hello, May," HR greeted Ma. "You haven't changed a bit."

"Nor have you, Hyacinth," said Ma. She went on to explain that she and Hyacinth Rose were at school together, and that the stories she told me about tooth fairies when I was a baby were about HR! So really HR is responsible for me being a tooth fairy!

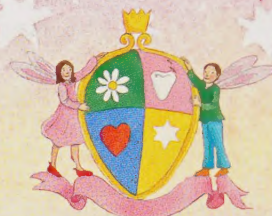
Most thrilling of all was meeting the Fairy Queen. She is so beautiful – and very excited about the new palace Pa is building for her.

"You'll have to get us some tip top teeth, Pip," Pa said and I told him that I'd get right on to it.

Tonight I'm off to visit a girl called Anna. Her tooth has fallen out and I just know that it's going to be a very good one! Put that tooth under your pillow, Anna, here comes the Tooth Fairy!

Yup, that's me, Pip,
Tooth Fairy - FIRST CLASS!





Her Royal Majesty,
the Fairy Queen, is delighted to confirm that
Pip
has passed her Tooth Fairy Examinations
and is now a Tooth Fairy (First Class).

Congratulations!

The Fairy Queen





Pip has always wanted to be a tooth fairy and now she's going to training school to learn the tricks of the tooth fairy trade. There's lots to get to grips with - spells, map-reading and Dentricals are just some of the skills she'll need. But it's fun too, and only when the exams are looming does Pip begin to get nervous. Will she manage to pass her tests and make her dreams come true?



WARNING!
Not suitable for
children under 36 months
due to small parts.

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